

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 are amended to place them in more conventional form according to U.S. practice, and to make minor grammatical changes that are self-explanatory.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaule (WO 99/56964 or U.S. 6,688,221) in view of Zeiter et al. (U.S. 6,494,491) and Bitner et al. (U.S. 5,310,060) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a **packaging film** with regionally applied security features; claim 12 is directed to a method for the production of a security feature for the application onto a **packaging film**; and claim 16 is directed to a method for the application of a regional security feature onto a **packaging film**. Accordingly, claims 1, 12 and 16 recite a "packaging film."

Kaule discloses security features for valuable documents, but does not disclose security features for a **packaging film**. In column 8, lines 37-43 of the reference, which is cited by the Examiner, the security features are applied only to the product itself, and are not applied to a packaging material for the products.

In addition, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Kaule does not teach or suggest "a **UV-curable deep-drawable separation lacquer**," as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Zeiter et al. disclose a packaging material onto which security features are directly printed. In an embodiment, the packaging material is formed by laminating two films, each of them having one part of the final security feature directly printed on it together.

However, claim 1 recites a packaging film with **regionally applied** security features, wherein the packaging film has one or more security features applied thereon in a **defined area**. The security element in the claimed invention is therefore not directly formed on the packages, as taught by Zeiter, but is regionally applied to the packaging material in a defined area.

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Zeiter et al. teach deep drawing and cites column 4, lines 14-24 of the reference. However, in the claimed invention, the security feature itself is

detached from a carrier substrate that has been coated with a UV-curable deep-drawable **separation lacquer** (claim 1). The separation lacquer may be provided with surface structure (claims 2-3), and/or further security features, such as printings or functional layers having various properties (claims 4-7). The security feature is applied to the packaging material with the help of an adhesive coating (claims 8 and 14), such that the security feature layers are adhered to the packaging material and the carrier substrate of the security element is taken off. Thus, the UV-curable deep-drawable separation lacquer layer forms the outer surface of the applied security feature.

In a deep drawing process, the UV-curable lacquer layer forms a kind of protection for the security features that are positioned between the lacquer layer and the packaging film to which it is applied. The security feature is thus protected against any damage that might occur in the deep drawing process. Therefore, the Zeiter et al.'s disclosure of "deep drawing" is not the claimed feature of "**a UV-curable deep-drawable separation lacquer.**" Accordingly, Zeiter et al. do not cure the deficiencies of Kaule.

The Examiner cites Bitner et al. with respect to claims 10 and 11, which are directed to a cold-formable film (claim 10) and a file for strip packs (claim 11). However, the reference does not teach or suggest a **packaging film** with regionally applied security features, and a **UV-curable deep-drawable separation lacquer**. Therefore, the reference does not cure the deficiencies of Kaule.

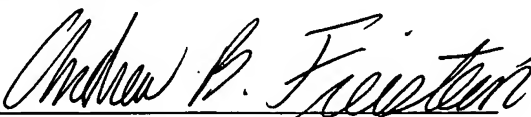
Accordingly, claims 1, 12 and 16 would not have been rendered obvious by the references. Claims 2-11, 13-15 and 17-20 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 12 and 16, and thus also would not have been rendered obvious by the references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For these reasons, Applicants take the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the applied references. Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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